



How to keep your child in one piece.

Children are fragile. When on the go, proper safety precautions must be taken or tragedies can result. Transportation-related injuries and fatalities that might have been prevented in one recent year are staggering.

- Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for children aged 5 through 15.
- More than 360,000 children were injured and at least another 3,200 were killed in transportation accidents.
- More than 250 lives would have been saved had children been properly secured in child safety seats.
- One-fourth of the traffic fatalities of those under age 16 were pedestrians, many not observing crossing rules of the road.
- More than one-third of the bicyclists killed were between age 5 and 15.
- More than 90 children were killed and 200 injured at railroad crossings.
- Life jackets would have saved the lives of approximately three dozen children that died from recreational boat drownings.

Unfortunately, the long list of children killed or injured while traveling goes on and on. Many of these tragedies would have been avoided if those children and their parents had observed proper safety measures. Teach your child safety and you'll not only make the odds swing in your favor, you'll also give yourself some peace of mind.

The Top Ten Simple Safety Steps For Children On The Go

1. Safety belts should always be buckled, whether a child is in a motor vehicle or on an airplane.
2. Young children should always be properly secured in child safety seats.
3. Children on bikes should always wear helmets.
4. Children should stop at the curb, look left, right, and left again before crossing the road. At intersections, they should pay special attention to turning vehicles.
5. Children should never play on or near railroad tracks.
6. Children should always wear life jackets when boating or around water.
7. Children should always be visible when walking or biking. They should wear light, brightly-colored clothing. At night, they should wear markers that reflect light.
8. When riding on an escalator, children should stand facing forward, always hold the handrail and never touch the sides or sit on the stairs.
9. No one, especially a child, should ever ride in the bed of a pick-up truck.
10. Children should never play near a subway platform edge or by the curb at a bus stop.



U.S. Department of Transportation

Instill the spirit of safety in your children and make their world a better place. For more information about child safety, call the U.S. Department of Transportation at 800-424-9393.

